

Sinclair Broadcast Group of Maryland has ordered its 62 stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary during prime-time hours just days before the election. This is a clear violation of their legal obligation to serve the public interest, as Sinclair has refused to air similar pro-Kerry programs or otherwise provide equal access on the public airwaves they use free of charge.

This is a prime example of the dangers of media consolidation. One-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" do not serve the public interest, but when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. At the very least, we should be able to depend on our media to present both sides of issues that concern the nation as a whole.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.